

Great Books for Eighth Grade Readers at the Pleasanton Public Library

Compiled by the Pleasanton Library
Children's Staff



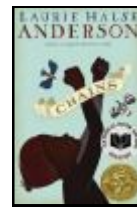
Books are shelved in
Young Teen Fiction
by author's last name
and/or
Young Teen Paperbacks
by first letter of author's last name
(unless otherwise noted).

Please ask at the Children's Desk
if you need help.

Down the Rabbit Hole by Peter Abrams
(375 p) *Audiobook available*
Echo Falls Mystery series
Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader
Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a
murder case in her home town of Echo Falls.



Chains: Seeds of America



by Laurie Halse Anderson
(251 p) *Audiobook available*
Seeds of America trilogy
After being sold to a cruel couple in New
York City, a slave named Isabel spies for
the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

Little Blog on the Prairie



by Cathleen Davitt Bell
(276 p)
Thirteen-year-old Genevieve's summer at a
frontier family history camp in Laramie,
Wyoming, with her parents and brother is
filled with surprises, which she reports to
friends back home on the cell phone she
sneaked in, and which they turn into a blog.

The Awakening



by Michael Carroll
(264 p) *Quantum Prophecy series*
Ten years after the disappearance of
super-humans — both heroes and
villains — thirteen-year-olds Danny and
Colin begin to develop super powers,
making them the object of much
unwanted attention.

I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You

by Ally Carter
(284 p) *Audiobook available*
Gallagher Girls series

As a sophomore at a secret spy school and
the daughter of a former CIA operative,
Cammie is sheltered from "normal teenage
life" until she meets a local boy while on a
class surveillance mission.



The Roar

by Emma Clayton
(481 p) *Audiobook available*
Sequel: The Whisper

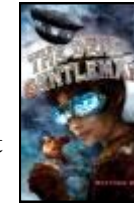


In an overpopulated world where all
signs of nature have been obliterated and
a wall has been erected to keep out
plague-ridden animals, twelve-year-old
Mika refuses to believe that his twin
sister was killed after being abducted,

and continues to search for her in spite of the dangers
he faces in doing so.

The Dead Gentleman

by Matthew Cody
(280 p)
The world of Tommy Lerner, an orphan in
1900 New York City, collides with that of
modern-day Jezebel Lemon in the basement
of her apartment building, where together
they must use the portals between worlds to
thwart the Dead Gentleman, a legendary villain whose
last unconquered world is the planet Earth.



Notes from a Totally Lame Vampire: Because the Undead Have Feelings Too!



by Tim Collins (329 p)
Nigel Mullet, a 100-year-old vampire
doomed to spend eternity in the body of
a socially awkward fifteen-year-old boy,
records his attempts to impress the love
of his life, Chloe, while battling an
embarrassingly overwhelming desire to
sink his fangs into her.

Revolution is Not a Dinner Party

by Ying Chang Compestine
(248 p) *Audiobook available*



Starting in 1972 when she was nine years
old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors,
struggles to make sense of the
communists' Cultural Revolution, which
empties stores of food, homes of
appliances deemed "bourgeois," and
people of laughter.

Airman

by Eoin Colfer
(412 p) *Audiobook available*
In the late nineteenth century, when Conor
Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to
overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor,
imprisoned, and forced to mine for
diamonds under brutal conditions while he
plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison by way of
a flying machine that he must design, build, and, hardest
of all, trust to carry him to safety.



The Naming

by Alison Croggan
(492 p) *Pellinor series*
A manuscript from the lost civilization of
Edil-Amarandah chronicles the experiences
of sixteen-year-old Maerad, an orphan
gifted in the magic and power of the Bards,
as she escapes from slavery and begins to



learn how to use her Gift to stave off the evil Darkness
that threatens to consume her world.

The Loud Silence of Francine Green



by Karen Cushman
(225 p) *Audiobook available*
In 1949, thirteen-year-old Francine goes
to Catholic school in Los Angeles where
she becomes best friends with a girl who
questions authority and is frequently
punished by the nuns, causing Francine
to question her own values.

Payback Time

by Carl Deuker
(298 p)
Overweight, somewhat timid Mitch
reluctantly agrees to be the sports reporter
for the Lincoln High newspaper because
he is determined to be a writer, but he
senses a real story in Angel, a talented
football player who refuses to stand out on
the field — or discuss his past.



**This list represents a small selection of
fiction that appeals to eighth graders.
This list is not intended to limit a
child's reading, for there is no
"perfect" eighth grade book.**

Pleasanton Public Library
Children's Services
400 Old Bernal Ave.
Pleasanton, California 94566

(925) 931-3400

Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.



9/2013

Body of Water by Sarah Dooley
(324 p) *Audiobook available*



After their trailer home and all their belongings are burned, twelve-year-old Ember and her Wiccan family move to a lakeside campground where Ember’s anguish over losing her dog, as well as her friendship with the boy she fears started the fire, stops her from making new friends and moving on.

The House of the Scorpion

by Nancy Farmer
(380 p) *Audiobook available*

In a future in which humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Hidden by Helen Frost
(147 p) *Audiobook available*

When Fourteen-year-old Wren and Darra meet at a Michigan summer camp, both are overwhelmed by memories from six years earlier when Darra’s father stole a car, unaware that Wren was hiding in the back.



Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata
(244 p) *Audiobook available*

This book chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950’s and early 1960’s.



The Last Dragonslayer by Jasper Fforde
(262 p) *Chronicles of Kazam series*

Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Strange runs an agency for underemployed magicians in a world where magic is fading away, but when visions of the death of the world’s last dragon begin, all signs point to Jennifer - and Big Magic.

The Crossroads by Chris Grabenstein
(325 p)

When eleven-year-old Zack Jennings moves to Connecticut with his father and new stepmother, they must deal with the ghosts left behind by a terrible accident, as well as another kind of ghost from Zack’s past.



Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy
(392 p) *Audiobook available*

Skulduggery Pleasant series

When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle’s estate, she must join forces with Skuldggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.



Death Cloud by Andrew Lane
(311 p) *Audiobook available*



Young Sherlock Holmes series

In 1868, with his army officer father suddenly posted to India, and his mother mysteriously “unwell,” fourteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes is sent to stay with his eccentric uncle and aunt in their vast house in Hampshire, where he uncovers his first murder and a diabolical villain.

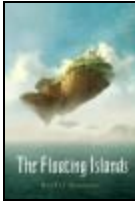
Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City by Kirsten Miller
(389 p) *Kiki Strike series*



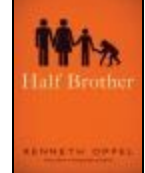
Life becomes more interesting for Ananka Fishbein when, at the age of twelve, she discovers an underground room in the park across from her New York City apartment and meets a mysterious girl called Kiki Strike who claims that she, too, wants to explore the subterranean world.

The Floating Islands by Rachel Neumeir
(388 p)

The adventures of two teenaged cousins who live in a place called The Floating Islands, one of whom is studying to become a mage and the other one of the legendary island flyers.



Half Brother by Kenneth Oppel
(375 p) *Audiobook available*



In 1973, when a renowned Canadian behavioral psychologist pursues his latest research project — an experiment to determine whether chimpanzees can acquire advanced language skills — he brings home a baby chimp named Zan and asks his thirteen-year-old son to treat Zan like a little brother.

Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen
(162 p) *Audiobook available*

From this 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the



band of British soldiers and Indians who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community.

Monsoon Summer by Mitali Perkins
(257 p)

Secretly in love with her best friend and business partner Steve, fifteen-year-old Jazz must spend the summer away from him when her family goes to India during that country's rainy season to help set up a clinic.



Heart of the Samurai: Based on the True Story of Manjiro Nakahama by Margi Preus
(301 p) *Audiobook available*

In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.



Peak by Roland Smith



(246 p) *Audiobook available*
After Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he’s left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But his father wants Peak to be the youngest person to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, a very dangerous endeavor.

Under the Persimmon Tree by Suzanne Staples
(275 p)



During the 2001 Afghan War, the lives of Najmal, a young refugee from Kunduz, Afghanistan, and Nusrat, an American-Muslim teacher who is awaiting her husband's return from Mazar-i-Sharif, intersect at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Heroes of the Valley by Jonathan Stroud
(483 p) *Audiobook available*

When young Halli Svinsson plays a trick on Ragnor of the House of Hakonsson, he sets in motion a chain of events that will forever alter his destiny, forcing him to leave home and go on a hero’s quest where he encounters highway robbers, terrifying monsters, and a girl who may finally be his match.



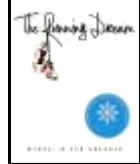
Blackbringer by Laini Taylor
(437 p) *Audiobook available*

Faeries of Dreamdark series

Magpie Windwitch, faerie, devil hunter, and granddaughter of the West Wind, must defeat an ancient evil creature, the Blackbringer, who has escaped from his bottle and threatens to unmake all of creation.



The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen
(336 p) *Audiobook available*



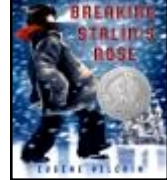
When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

Malice by Chris Wooding
(377 p) *Malice series*

Malice is a secret, horrifying, comic book world, if you gather the right things and say the right words, you’ll be taken there. Seth and Kady think it’s a myth until their friends disappear.



Breaking Stalin’s Nose by Eugene Yelchin
(140 p) *Audiobook available*



In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs.

Paperback Series

shelved in Children’s Paperbacks or Young Teen Paperbacks by first letter of series title

Candy Apple by various authors

Conspiracy 365 by Gabrielle Lord

My Sister the Vampire by Natalie Standiford

On the Run by Gordon Korman

Pendragon by D.J. McHale (Shelved under “M”)

Poison Apple by various authors

Real Mermaids by Helene Boudreau

S.A.S.S. (Students Across the Seven Seas)